



Councilmember Francisco Heredia District 3

News and happenings in West Mesa

March 2021

Happy March District 3 Neighbors!

There are few places better than Mesa, Arizona in March. The weather is beautiful, spring is in the air and we have exciting things happening in our City.

There are still many programs happening to help our community get through this pandemic, and you can find info on them in this newsletter. There is also an update on other programs being offered as well as vaccine info.

I know we are a year into this new normal, but I want to thank all of you for your efforts in helping to keep each other safe. There is nothing more important than the health and well-being of our residents.

As always, you can contact my office: District3@mesaaz.gov or 480-644-6275

~Councilmember Francisco Heredia

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



Emergency Rental And Utility Assistance Program

The City of Mesa is accepting applications for the 2021 Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (ERAP) in response to COVID-19's financial impact to Mesa residents. Funded through the U.S. Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the program provides rent and utility assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness.

To qualify, you must be a City of Mesa resident impacted by COVID through a significant lifechanging event such as loss of job, reduced hours and medical expenses. Your household monthly gross income must be at or below 80 percent of the median depending on the number of household members. Priority will be given to applicants who have any household member unemployed for the last 90 days or longer due to COVID or the total household income is at or below 50 percent of the area median income

Applicants to the 2021 ERAP program must have documentation including a photo ID, proof of income for all household members for the last 60 days, a current lease agreement and a current utility bill. Assistance is based on availability of funding.

Online and paper applications are available [here](#). Residents needing assistance completing the application may visit MesaCAN (Mesa Community Action Network), 635 N. Broadway, Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. They may also call (480) 644-5440 or email ERAPinfo@mesaaz.gov for assistance.

Food Distribution with United Food Bank

The drive-thru food distribution will provide the much needed grocery items two days a week. Individuals and families in need of food assistance can come one time per week. There is no need to arrive early, everyone who comes during the days/times of operation will receive the same food assistance.

Questions? Contact United Food Bank at 480-296-4897 or City of Mesa at 480-644-2171.

**Mesa Convention Center - Building C Main Hall
263 N. Center St.**

Fridays, February 5 - March 26, 2021

NEW HOURS: 8 - 11 am, or until food runs out



Vaccination and Testing

We have been getting a lot of questions as it pertains to vaccines and vaccine distribution in Mesa. Maricopa County is the agency that makes the majority of the decisions about where to open new vaccination sites and who falls into each phase. The City of Mesa has requested a central site so our large population of seniors have easier access to the vaccine. We are awaiting a response. It is difficult for the county to open additional sites right now because they need more vaccines and more people to administer the shots.

The State of Arizona has two sites that are accepting residents 65-74 but they are booked through February. For the most recent updates on vaccine availability and distribution visit <https://www.maricopa.gov/5651/Phase-1B>.

Our senior community is a priority and we are doing our best to get limited resources to our residents.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is working diligently to distribute and administer COVID-19 vaccines in Arizona. Due to there being a limited supply, there is a [phased approach](#) to distribution. For more information, visit [here](#).

Testing for COVID-19 is available for free at several sites throughout Mesa.

Daily testing with pre-registration is available at Mesa Community College through [Embry Women's Health](#).

Appointments can be made for Thursdays and Saturdays at the Mesa Convention Center through the [ASU Biodesign Institute](#).

To find a testing site near you, click [here](#) or [here](#).

The City has set up a website with up-to-the-minute information, FAQs and other helpful links. The site is updated frequently, whenever more information becomes available. It can be found at: www.mesaaz.gov/coronavirus.



MESA BUSINESS BUILDER



[MesaBusinessBuilder.com](https://mesabusinessbuilder.com) is a comprehensive online tool box for small businesses to help them start and grow in Mesa. This online resources provides access to critical tools such as business

resource guides, business associations and counseling agencies, incentive programs and financial assistance, data resources, entrepreneurship resources, location assistance, as well as guidance regarding permitting, zoning, utility services, licensing, and city codes.

In addition, you can connect to [Mesa's HUUB](#) where you will find more than 70 training videos and recorded seminars covering important business topics such as marketing, legal guidance, financial management, restaurant operations, web design, and much more

If you are considering starting or growing your business in Mesa, check out [MesaBusinessBuilder.com](https://mesabusinessbuilder.com).

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



Fiesta Village: Re-development of Fiesta Village is underway! Construction activity is going strong at the northwest corner of Alma School and Southern. Demolition of the entire site was finished late last year and most of the underground utility work has been completed. There will 220 new apartment units, in addition to a clubhouse and related amenities, which are being developed by PB Bell. The clubhouse should be open this fall and the entire apartment

complex is scheduled for opening in early 2022. It is exciting to see this great new investment in District 3!

Broadstone Dobson Ranch: Construction began in the Fall of 2020 and has recently completed demolition and mass grading of the 10-acre site. Building foundations and vertical construction are currently underway, with an anticipated opening in the Spring of 2022.

Mekong 88: A nearly 33,000 sf building for future commercial/retail use just south of the Mekong Plaza. This development will integrate an intentional connection to the

neighboring Mekong Plaza to the north, both in using the same finishes, colors, and materials, as well as aligning a portion of the building in the back. A new pedestrian connection with appropriate striping will also be incorporated. This project has cultural relevance as it speaks to the future of our Asian District and its continued growth.

Fiesta Mall: Progress is slowly being made. The property has gone from 5 owners to 2 owners and there is an agreement in place to make the transition into a single owner. Planning is underway for a master plan and vision for the entire site. I hope to have more news to share in the months to come!

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

Mesa City Council has approved a non-discrimination ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and places of public accommodation based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, veteran's status, marital status, genetic information or familial status.

The Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board initiated the process in 2014, with a request for City Council to consider a non-discrimination ordinance. Since then, Mesa announced the One Mesa Pledge where individuals and businesses pledged to support diversity and inclusion. After studying the process in neighboring cities, the City of Mesa decided the time is right to adopt an official ordinance.

Mesa today becomes the seventh city in the state of Arizona to adopt a non-discrimination ordinance, joining Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, Tempe, Winslow and Sedona.

Mesa's non-discrimination ordinance has been reviewed and endorsed by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Visit Mesa; Mesa Economic Development Advisory Board; and Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board.

The ordinance does not apply to religious corporations and organizations, public schools, religious schools and charter schools. It does not apply to single-sex designated areas of a place of public accommodation or single-sex sports and recreational leagues and programs. In addition, the ordinance does not displace or repeal any criminal laws.

The new ordinance takes effect on June 29, 2021.

COUNCILMEMBER HEREDIA'S STATEMENT ON THE NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

"This is an historic day for the City of Mesa. We have taken an important step forward as a city and I take great pride in being a member of the City Council that passed this non-discrimination ordinance. We are moving forward as a society and I believe that what we have done this evening is a great example of that growth.

This is an important signal to everyone that Mesa, Arizona supports equal rights for all and that we do not tolerate discrimination in our community. It wasn't an easy road, but it was a road that needed to be taken. However, our work is not done. We will continue to review and study this subject, understanding that progress is a long-term process.

I also want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this a reality. This is one of the most important things I will do in my career, and it is truly an honor to have played a role in promising inclusivity to everyone on the City of Mesa, Arizona."

-Councilmember Francisco Heredia

MESA UNITED WAY'S VITA PROGRAM



The Mesa United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is still available for those in our community who

The VITA program provides expert tax-preparation services free of charge to low- and moderate-income households across the East Valley. VITA ensures that tax returns are prepared accurately and that these individuals and families receive all the tax benefits to which they are entitled, including the Earned income Tax Credit, which provides a check to

qualified households even if no taxes were paid.

I recently sat down with Connie Alvarado of United Way to go over the VITA Program and talk about how it can help. You can watch my Q&A [here](#).

***To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, an appointment is required at all tax preparation sites and new safety measures have been implemented for this year's VITA tax season.**

For more information, to register for an appointment and for all the necessary forms, please visit the [VITA Program Website](#).

2021 SPRING TRAINING



The 2021 Cactus League season is underway and Mesa once again welcomes the Chicago Cubs and the Oakland Athletics to our city. Games will look a little bit different this year, with limited capacity and social distancing rules in effect at both Sloan Park and Hohokam Stadium.

Spring Training is an important and exciting time of year in Mesa, so we are thrilled to welcome back the teams. Games will be held safely and responsibly and we are confident that we can have a successful, albeit unique, Spring Training 2021.

For more information on Cubs Spring Training, click [here](#). For the A's, click [here](#).

MARCH 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS



The Mesa City Council holds two Council meetings a month, in addition to weekly study sessions. All meetings can be viewed live on both the [City's Facebook page](#) and [Mesa Channel 11's YouTube page](#).

Council meetings are currently being held virtually and the process for citizens to participate in the meetings can be found [here](#).

March Council Meetings

Monday, March 15- 5:45 p.m.

March Study Sessions

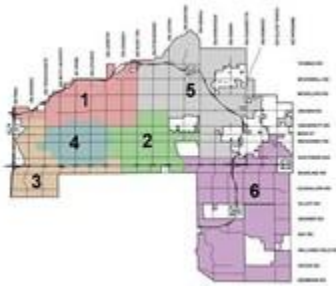
Thursday, March 11- 7:30 a.m.

Monday, March 15- 5:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 18- 7:30 a.m.
Monday, March 25- 7:30 a.m.
*- Meetings subject to start time changes

WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 25- [Virtual Trivia Night: Let's Get Quizzical](#), 6-7 p.m.

STAY INFORMED



Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! For Council meeting info click [here](#). Visit [Mesa Channel 11](#) for more updates.

Phone: 480-644-6275 Email: District3@mesaaz.gov